

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Promotions

The 31st Fighter Wing quarterly enlisted promotion ceremony is at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday at the La Bella Vista Club.

Change of command

Lt. Col. Troy Jackson will assume command of the 603rd Air Control Squadron from Lt. Col. Jennifer Spears at 3 p.m., June 13 at the 603rd ACS compound.

MPF hours

The military personnel flight customer service will be limited Thursday through June 8 for the Phase I and II exercise. Customers are encouraged to take care of any pressing needs before or after these dates. Outbound assignments will still be available for final outprocessing appointments. For more information, call Ext. 7216.

Field day

Aviano Elementary School is having a field day from 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday and June 2. Volunteers are needed for the event. For details, call Meryl Smith at Ext. 2248 or e-mail her at meryl.smith@eu.dodea.edu.

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

The 603rd Air Control Squadron held a remembrance ceremony May 19 to honor the five 'Scorpions' who lost their lives since the squadron began operating here in 1994.

The remembrance ceremony focused on the friendships and the lives of the fallen Airmen.

"Today is a day of celebrating and joy, not a day of sadness. I think it's appropriate to remember them when the nation is remembering Memorial Day because they represent the spirit of Memorial Day," said Lt. Col. Jennifer Spears, 603rd ACS commander.

The ceremony included the unveiling of a monument dedicated to Airman 1st Class Antoine Holt who was killed April 10, 2004, during a mortar attack at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Airman Holt's family was invited to Aviano for the ceremony and their airfare was paid for from a 603rd ACS remembrance fund.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Members of the 603rd Air Control Squadron stand in formation during a remembrance ceremony May 19. The ceremony was dedicated to five fallen 603d ACS Airmen who lost their lives.

"We spoke with Antoine the same day he left us and he was so upbeat and positive," said Courtney Garmon, Airman Holt's mother.

Speaking to the crowd of Airman Holt's former co-workers and friends, Mrs. Garmon told them, "You are the family we have now. I know a little bit of Antoine is still out there from all the e-mails and letters we get."

The 603rd ACS members decided to hold the remembrance ceremony as a way to

say good-bye to Airman Holt and the four other 'Scorpions' lost over the years.

Even though Airman Holt died more than two years ago, his memory lives on in more than 40 Airmen who worked with him and are still stationed here. Several of them took the time to share their experiences with Airman Holt and the impression he left.

One such member was Tech. Sgt. Roger Thornton, Airman Holt's supervisor

See Honoring, page 7

Closure: The Aviano Commissary will be closed June 7 for an organizational and training day. Call Ext. 7656 for more information.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	1,089.7	731
	-106.1	-21

Information current as of Thursday.



Bashing it up

Aviano Airmen duke it out with water guns MASH style at the 31st Fighter Wing combat dining out May 19.

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Ancient library

Turkey's Aegean coast offers travelers a world of Roman ruins to explore, including two ancient wonders of the world.

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From the top: A Word From Those Who Lead

U.S. Air Force

Leaders send Memorial Day messages

The following is a Memorial Day message from Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley.

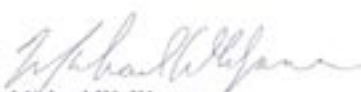
"To the men and women of the United States Air Force:

"In a time of peace and prosperity, we remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. In a time of war, these memories are sharpened by the selfless service of those defending our freedoms daily.

"This Memorial Day, we pause to honor our fallen Airmen – Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian – who answered the call and paid the ultimate price for our country. Remember also the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, patriots all, who displayed the resolute courage that has defined our country through the generations.

"We also remember the families of those who served so well but did not come home. We hope that these families draw strength from the fact that their loved ones served a calling greater than their own self-interest. Likewise, we come together today to stand with the families of those who continue to serve, as their unconditional support is our true source of strength.

"We remain a nation at war, and an Air Force committed to upholding the charge presented in the Constitution to "provide for the common defense." This Memorial Day, we affirm our gratitude for those who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could live and enjoy freedom in abundance. We will never disappoint their legacy of service before self."



Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force



T. MICHAEL MOSELEY
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

The following is a joint message from Gen. Tom Hobbins, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Gary G. Coleman, USAFE command chief.

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, each Memorial Day brings personal and painful reminders of Americans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed at the conclusion of the Civil War to honor Union and Confederate soldiers. After World War I, Memorial Day changed to honor Americans who died in any war, and there have been many. Unlike those wars, our current struggle is not waged against an enemy who can be readily identified or fought on a battlefield marked by boundaries or borders. How and when our fight against terrorism ends remains to be seen.

What we do know is that American lives will continue to be lost each year in this fight. We know that our Airmen and the Sailors, Soldiers and Marines who serve alongside them serve their nation knowing

full well the price they may pay to preserve our much-valued way of life.

Most assuredly, they know such sacrifice is not in vain. These young Airmen, deployed in harm's way, are faithfully working to promote freedom, justice and human dignity. We have traveled downrange to visit these young men and women and we continue to be amazed by their personal courage and steadfast resolve. They know they are at the forefront of a long and noble tradition of duty and commitment to our country.

Perhaps there will come a time in history when memories of our sacrifices today will also begin to fade and a renewed call will be made to extol their honor. It is our responsibility to make sure no one from our generation will ever take their sacrifice for granted. Now, more than ever, we feel a deeper respect and commitment toward our brothers and sisters in arms from past wars who rest in peace in cemeteries around the world.

This Memorial Day, take a moment to say thank you to all who serve.



General Tom Hobbins



CMSSgt Gary Coleman

Service dress prototypes pique interest

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

Based on feedback received during visits with Airmen across the Air Force, the Air Force Uniform Board is reviewing several notional concepts that Airmen have suggested regarding the appearance of the service dress uniform.

Some of the informal feedback about the current service dress includes Airmen wanting to revamp the service dress to look more military, like the other services. One senior airman said, "The current uniform resembles a cheesy business suit." Another staff sergeant said, "Think world's most dominating air power, not CEO," and another described it as a "cheap leisure suit."

Other comments have suggested that the uniform needs to reflect the Air Force's history more. On an Internet message board an Airman recently wrote, "I want to look good and be proud of my AF heritage." Another Airman wrote that the dress uniform pales in comparison to any of the other services. "We need something that distinguishes us as proud members of the U.S. military."

The Air Force began exploring these ideas by producing several prototypes that reflect a combination of ideas that have been gleaned from comments, suggestions and informal surveys conducted over the past several years.



Photo by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice and Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos show off prototypes of the Billy Mitchell heritage coat in the Pentagon May 15. General Allardice is director of Airmen development and sustainment and Sergeant Athnos is a member of the Air Force uniform board.

A more formal survey will soon provide additional opportunities for Airmen to provide feedback and comments.

"We've been getting informal feedback on our current service dress uniform for several years, and what we consistently have heard is a desire for a more 'military,' and less 'corporate' look and feel, something more reflective of the Air

Force's heritage," said Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice, director of Airman development and sustainment, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

"The uniform board has come up with some options to explore these concepts and the initial prototypes are direct descendants of our heritage, rooted in Hap Arnold and Billy Mitchell's Air Force," General Allardice said.

The survey will provide a more formal opportunity to collect feedback on whether or not Airmen want a new service dress, and if so, what changes, likes, or dislikes they have about the prototypes.

"We believe we need to respond to the force and the constant flow of feedback we receive on the service dress is driving this initiative. We see this as an opportunity to do so, along with a chance to reflect on our rich history, as well as the image we wish to portray in uniform," said General Allardice. "We want to make sure our uniforms, all combinations, meet our current and future needs."

This process will use the standard Air Force Uniform Board process and as with the Airman's Battle Uniform, Airmen are encouraged to contribute to how their new service uniform might look.

The Air Force will present options based on feedback received on possible service dress designs through the uniform board process.

Free childcare: Families who are ready to PCS or have recently arrived are entitled to free child care. Call Ext. 5407 for info.

Aviano kicks off 101 Critical Days of Summer

During the time between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Air Force statistically sees an increase in mishaps and fatal injuries.

By Master Sgt. Terry Todd
31st Fighter Wing Safety Office

It's that time of the year again, the time period between Memorial Day and Labor Day, commonly known as the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

Air Force safety statistics have shown that this period has traditionally been a period of increased mishaps, especially those occurring in off-duty activities.

The leading causes of fatal mishaps have been in off-duty private motor vehicle mishaps; the second highest number has involved water sports and drowning. Because most of us travel, and many of us participate in water sports, it's important to be aware of the risks and never assume that it won't happen to you.

Last summer, 29 Airmen failed to properly assess the risks associated with their activities and took unnecessary chances. Those chances resulted in their deaths.

Whether you're at a backyard party, beach barbecue, driving across country on vacation, playing softball, or just swimming in the sea, every activity has risks and you need to be aware of them. It's so easy

to get caught up in the moment and lose situational awareness to what's going on around you. Only you can assess the risks of your actions and activities you participate in. Only you can take appropriate actions to reduce or eliminate them.

Summer after summer, too many of our fellow Airmen fail to assess the risks and weigh the consequences of their actions. They pay the ultimate price - with their life. Some choose not to wear a helmet, some choose not to wear their seatbelts, some drive way too fast for conditions, and some choose to swim in unsafe waters. People die because they choose to ignore warning signs or rules or choose to take a shortcut.

As we enter into our summer season and the 101 Critical Days of Summer, we at the 31st Fighter Wing Safety Office invite you to take a short time-out and think about your safety and the safety of others.

Whether you're at home, at the beach, or at work, you should be alert to your surroundings and make smart decisions to reduce or eliminate unnecessary risks. Ask yourself, "If I take the risk can I live with the consequences?" Don't become a statistic. The choice is yours, so make it a safe one.

Smooth move: Members contribute to PCS success

Courtesy of 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron

As Aviano members gear up for PCS season, it's important to keep a few things in mind.

As soon as orders are received, departing members should stop by the Transportation Management Office. There, members can be scheduled for a household goods briefing which is when they'll sign shipment documents and confirm desired pack and pick-up dates.

Dates chosen can be as soon as seven days after attending the briefing. If a member waits until the week prior to his or her departure date to come to TMO, they will be required to obtain a Power of Attorney to designate someone to ship property.

A successful move depends largely on how much the individual gets involved and how well they are prepared when the movers arrive. Here are some tips for getting ready:

- Someone must be home when the movers arrive. If you are not at home between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., you will be charged an attempted pickup or delivery charge.

- After arrangements have been made, it's recommended to not change them. Changing moving dates, especially during summer months, can mean a lengthy delay in getting your move rescheduled, and requires a letter from your commander.

- Disconnect and prepare all electronic components (i.e. stereos, DVDs, TVs, etc.) before the movers arrive. Copy the make, model and serial number and provide this to the carrier so each item can

be placed on the inventory, and keep a copy for your records.

- Dispose of food and unauthorized items to avoid having your shipment held up by U.S. customs.

- Ensure personal property items are free of soil and pest infestation. Additionally, to meet customs requirements, all outside items such as rakes and lawnmowers must be clean.

- Dismantle outdoor play equipment and outdoor structures, like sheds, playhouses, swing or gym sets.

- Separate professional items. Be sure they are identified on the inventory as PBP&E, or "Pro Gear" and the items are weighed separately.

- Do not leave cash, jewelry, purses or wallets unattended. If they are erroneously packed, you are responsible for paying the movers to have them unpacked.

It is illegal for American citizens to possess a firearm in Italy. You were not authorized to ship them into the country, possess them in the country or ship them out of the country. The local household goods carriers are not permitted to pack or move firearms, therefore TMO cannot establish the shipment without local law enforcement coordination.

Ignoring this prohibition can cause serious legal problems including fines or imprisonment, appearance before Italian court and

weapon confiscation.

For more information, call TMO customer service at Ext. 5933 or go to the Move Web-page at <http://afmove.hq.af.mil/default.asp>.



Courtesy photo

Movers can pack more quickly if household goods are cleaned, electronic items are disconnected and the serial numbers are recorded.

Loan center: The family support center has loan items available while household goods are being shipped. Call Ext. 5407 for details.

Honoring, from page 1

who was deployed with him at the time of the attack.

"We became a close-knit family downrange and played basketball together," he said about the group in the tent with Airman Holt the night of the attack. "He was a young man full of talent and he taught me some things about life. What I've taken from this is to give to my Air Force career what I would have given to him."

While many of Airman Holt's peers are still stationed here, one ceremony attendee made a special trip from the states for the unveiling.

For the first time since deploying to Iraq, where he lost his left leg below the knee in the same mortar attack that killed Airman Holt, Scott Palomino returned to Aviano to honor his friend. "I was a

little nervous about coming back, but it's bringing back a lot of memories. It's a good feeling," he said.

The remembrance ceremony also recognized four 603rd 'Scorpions' who died in non-combat situations, including:

Senior Airman Christopher Croft, killed in June 1994, while riding his bicycle to base; 1st Lt. Michael Lacy, who died after suffering injuries in a motorcycle accident in February 1999; Airman 1st Class Shaun Anderson, killed in a motor vehicle accident Jan. 16, 2000; and Staff Sgt. Ricardo Duran Jr., who died from an asthma attack while sleeping Nov. 5, 2005.

Colonel Spears, who knew three of the Airmen personally, said that the remembrance ceremony is "something they would have wanted today."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Courtney Gorman greets members from the 603rd Air Control Squadron in front of a monument dedicated to her son, Airman 1st Class Antoine Holt, who was killed while serving in Iraq.

Acting up: Theatre group performs for Aviano

By Senior Airman
Sarah Gregory

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Lights, camera, action ... well, almost. It's not quite Hollywood, but the members of the Aviano Community Theatre can put on a quite a show. And while it may not be an Oscar, the ACT members have had their fair share of awards.

For their recent production of Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods," the acting troupe won six awards at the annual Toppers Awards ceremony in Heidelberg, Germany, April 22. Acting groups can enter the competition with a musical, comedy or a drama.

The name of the awards ceremony comes from the acronym, "Tournament of Plays," in which different acting troupes from around U.S. European command compete.

Although the Toppers Awards ceremony is a major contest, the ACT is one of the only Air Force acting troupes in Europe to enter the competition.

"The Air Force doesn't normally budget for this type of event, so we do everything from stage set-up to make-up ourselves," said Trudy DeAngelis, ACT president. "The Army pumps much more resources into the entertainment field and usually has a strong show."

While ACT members do put on plays for the competition, they have another purpose as well.

"Our mission is to promote and increase the public knowledge and appreciation of the arts and the theater in the community," said ACT treasurer Joline Powell, who also performed in the "Into the Woods" production.

As a volunteer-only group, ACT membership is free. People don't have to be the next superstar to contribute to a play; ACT is always looking for volunteers to help out with all production aspects.

"There is more behind the scenes than just acting or singing," said Ms. Powell. "We always need lighting, sound and make-up people. Everything is done by the members."

In addition to their annual musical production for the competition, the group puts on several non-musical and one-set plays. The troupe's next performance is "The Butler Didn't Do It," a mystery dinner theatre at 7 p.m. June 2 at the La Bella Vista Club. They are also hosting a potluck lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 24 in Area D.

For more information on upcoming shows or volunteer opportunities, call Joline Powell at Ext. 5140 in the afternoons or Trudy DeAngelis at Ext. 5076 or e-mail Aviano_community_theatre@hotmail.com.



Courtesy photo

Capt. Summer Davis, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, accepts her Best Military Actress award at the Toppers Awards ceremony in Heidelberg, Germany, April 22. Other Aviano Community Theater winners included: Staff Sgt. Joseph Carrender won for Best Actor; Christie George won for Best Props and Best Makeup; and Staff Sgt. Jason Smith won for first place for sound.

TMO: The Travel Management Office will have minimum manning Tuesday. Customers are asked to plan accordingly and be patient.

Stay cool, learn about fire home safety month

By Bryant Nicodemus
31st Civil Engineer Squadron
assistant fire prevention chief

What would you do if you suddenly woke to the sound of your smoke alarm and found your bedroom pitch black because it was filled with smoke? Would you remain calm? Would you be able to escape and help your family to escape?

In a situation like this, it is vital to know exactly what to do. In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for a house to fill with dense, dark, lung-piercing smoke. If this ever happened, would you know what to do?

The best way to improve the chances of surviving a fire, is to know what to do before you have to do it.

Know how to use a fire extinguisher effectively. Know that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. Prepare an escape plan and practice it every year to increase chances of survival.

Smoke alarms save lives – if they are working. Early warning of a fire means a better chance to escape before the fire spreads. Install one smoke detector on every floor. Hallways longer than 30 feet should have a detector at each end. Place detectors near sleeping areas. Install the detectors either on the

ceiling (at least 6-12 inches from the wall) or on the wall (6 -12 inches down from the ceiling).

The key to your family's safety is planning and practicing a home fire escape plan. Items that block doors and windows in the home could keep you from escaping in the event of a home fire. That could mean the difference between life and death.

Start planning by identifying two escape routes out of each room. Make sure each of those routes can be used safely by all family members. Here are a few helpful tips for planning escape routes:

Security Bars – Could prevent escaping a burning home if not equipped with a quick release mechanism. Ensure security bars have a quick release device.

Padlocks – Access to every escape route is critical in the event of a fire. Remove padlocks so doors can be used as an escape route.

Shutters – In Italy, shutters provide protection, security, and darkness so night-shifters can sleep. Ensure all shutters operate freely and easily so they can be opened during emergencies.

Furniture – Do not block doors and windows with televisions, heavy dressers, tables, couches or large potted plants. Most often, windows provide the secondary escape route.

Toys – A pile of toys in front of a door can block or slow escape. Keep the entire escape route clear.



Left to right: Chief Master Sgt. Pamela Lane, 31st Fighter Wing command chief, Col. Steven Schrader, 31st FW vice commander, and Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st FW commander, open fire with their high-powered water guns during a MASH-themed dining out event.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Left: Tech. Sgt. Jason Williams, 603rd Air Control Squadron, dresses up like Cpl. Maxwell Q. Klinger from the 1970s show MASH. Dining out participants were encouraged to dress like their favorite character from the show.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Above: A big part of a combat dining out are pelting the 'enemy' with water guns and balloons. Traditionally, dining out events have rules of engagement such as 'no clapping allowed' since clapping is attempting to conspire with enemy forces. Instead, participants are encouraged to pound their fists on tables to show their appreciation.



Mashing it up

The Aviano community got together for a dining out MASH style May 19 at Hangar One and spouses were treated to an age-old military tradition. The combat dining out also featured water gun battles and trips to the grog bowl.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

e commander, and Barb Yates,
Bash dining out May 19.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Lt. Col. Jennifer Spears, 603rd Air Control Squadron commander and Lt. Col. Thomas Sadlo, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, salute the president of the mess during the MASH Bash combat dining out May 19. Dining outs are open to all military, spouses and civilians.

Right: Members who violate orders of the mess are punished by being sent to the grog bowl. At the MASH Bash, the participants had to complete an obstacle course while under attack from the rest of the mess to reach the grog.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza



Holiday closures

The 31st Medical Group is closed today for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Family Day and Monday for Memorial Day. There will be extended care hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the family practice clinic in Area One. For emergencies, go to Pordenone emergency room or the closest ER.

For life-threatening emergencies, call 118. A nurse can be reached by calling the Health Care Information Line at 800-877-660 toll free from any Italian phone line.

Online updates

Beginning Tuesday, all Airmen will be responsible for reviewing their duty history and requesting changes, additions or deletions online through the virtual Military Personnel Flight. Airmen can enter the vMPF by logging onto the Air Force Personnel Center's secure Web site where they can access their duty history under 'Most Popular Applications' or 'Self-Service Actions/Personal Data.'

Testing relocation

The education center's testing program will be closed Tuesday through June 9 due to the relocation of the center. Testing will resume on June 12 but will be limited to PME and civilian college proctored exams only. No CLEP, DANTES or Excelsior College exams will be offered during the month of June.

For more information, call Ext. 5330.

Study course

The education center offers a free study skills course from 9:30 a.m. to noon Thursday at the education center, Bldg. 186, in Area One. The course covers time management, improving listening and reading skills, beating stress, test anxiety and study techniques. For more information, call Ext. 5330.

Estate claims

It is with great regret that the 712th Red Horse Flight, Camp Darby, Italy, announces the passing of Senior Airman Patrick J. McCord. Any person(s) having claims

for or against the estate of Airman McCord should contact 1st Lt. Kurt J. Umlauf, the Summary Court Officer, at DSN 633-7053.

Girl Scouts

The Aviano Girls Scouts is hosting a volunteer organization meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Girl Scout Hut in Bldg. 186 in Area One. The meeting is for anyone interested in volunteering with the Girl Scouts. For more information, call Val Hodgson at 0434-76-8521 or e-mail her at avianogs@yahoo.com.

School survey

Aviano parents are asked to vote on a proposal to end first semester classes before the winter holiday break by visiting <https://wwwmil.usafe.af.mil/direct/A1/survey/survey.htm>. The deadline to vote is Thursday.

Currently, first semester classes end the last week in January. In order to end first semester classes before the winter holiday break, the school calendar would have to be moved up three weeks. The start date for school would move from the last week to the first week in August. Likewise, school would end three weeks earlier, moving the end date for school from mid-June to the last week of May, with classes ending before Memorial Day weekend.

Mentoring

A visit to a Porcia elementary school fifth grade English class is from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. June 5. People interested in mentoring must attend a briefing from 5:15 to 6 p.m. Monday at the Family Support Center in Area One. For more information, call Master Sgt. Christine Bowsby at Ext. 7926 or e-mail christine.bowsby@aviano.af.mil.

Help wanted

The Aviano Thrift Shop is now accepting applications for a part-time bookkeeper position that opens in July. For more information, call the thrift shop during busi-

ness hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Ext. 5428.

PC Wars

PC Wars hosts a gaming competition from 6 p.m. June 10 to 2 a.m. June 11 at the base exchange. All ages and skill levels are welcome to attend and should bring their own computer. Prizes include gift certificates, wireless cards and games.

For more information, call Airman 1st Class Jienelle Arevalo at Ext. 8455.

Legal office

The legal office has recently undergone some changes in service hours for notaries, powers of attorney, will executions and claims services. The new times are:

- Notaries, power of attorney and IVA tax forms are done on a walk-in basis from 2 to 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
- Marriage package notaries are by appointment only. These can only be notarized by the staff judge advocate or the deputy staff judge advocate.
- Will executions are now conducted at 1 p.m. Wednesdays. Legal assistance and will preparation are handled by appointments, but walk-in legal assistance is held at 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Customers must sign in between 4 and 4:30 p.m.

• Household goods claim inquiries and DD Form 1840R drop-offs are from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. You must have an appointment to file your claim.

More information can be found on the legal Web site on the Aviano intranet. This site can be accessed from the home page under Wing Staff, by selecting Staff Judge Advocate. The address is <https://avo-intranet/JudgeAdvocate/>.

These services are only for U.S. military ID card holders and their dependents. For more information, or to make an appointment, call Ext. 7843.

Reel Times

Today, 7 p.m. - "Take the Lead" Rated PG-13 -

A professional ballroom dancer volunteers at a New York public school to teach dance, but the students' hip-hop moves clash with his ballroom methods, so they create a new dance style. Starring: Antonio Banderas, Rob Brown

Saturday, noon - "V for Vendetta" Rated PG-13

- A mild-mannered young woman is rescued from a life-and-death situation by a masked vigilante known only as "V." Starring: Natalie Portman, Hugo Weaving

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "Failure to Launch" Rated PG-

13 - A thirtysomething man who still lives with his parents falls in love with the woman of his dreams and begins to suspect she has been hired by his parents as a way to get him out of the house. Starring: Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew McConaughey

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "She's the Man" Rated PG-13

- Viola disguises herself as her twin brother Sebastian and enrolls in his place at his new boarding school but ends up falling in love with her roommate. Starring: Amanda Bynes, Channing Tatum

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "Take the Lead" Rated PG-13

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "Failure to Launch" Rated PG-13

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Upcoming festivals

• A cantine aperte or wine tasting is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region. Visit www.mtvfriulivg.it for maps to specific locations.

• An oil tasting is from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Oleis near Manzano and features an exhibition and tasting of olive oil and wine from the region.

For more information, visit <http://www.comune.manzano.ud.it>.

• A 'Kissing of the Crosses' festival is at 10 a.m. Sunday in Zuglio, a Roman town near the Austrian border. This is a traditional and ancient religious ceremony in honor of Saint Peter little church that features a procession of crosses decorated specifically for the event, a holy mass at 11 a.m. and then lunch with regional specialties.

• A skate contest is in Tolmezzo Saturday. The park opens at 11 a.m. for free skate and races begin at 4 p.m. A BMX freestyle demo is at 5 p.m.

In case of bad weather, the event will be held June 3 with the same hours. For more information, call 347-812-8539.

• Local guitar players will perform at 7:30 p.m. June 3 in Castelbrando. The entrance fee is €10. Visit www.arteritmi.it for details.

For more information on any of these events, call Ext. 7555.

Exploring ancient Roman mysteries

Story and photo by
1st Lt. Nicole Dubnicay
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Aegean coast of Turkey offers up ancient mysteries and ruins aplenty. From Troy to Ephesus, the area is rich in history and opportunities to visit places from the ancient past.

The best way to get there is by airplane, flying to Izmir's Adnan Menderes Airport for direct access. Or, if you're visiting Istanbul, 8 to 10 hours of bus travel will bring you to the region.

Often visited for the seven churches tour, mentioned by St. John in the Book of Revelations (The Apocalypse), the Aegean coast offers more than religious artifacts. The beaches along the Aegean coast of Turkey are beautiful with crystal water; some shores are rocky but around Cesme the beach spans miles.

Beach resorts fill the towns of Marmaris and Bodrum to the South of Izmir. Most resorts offer relaxing all-inclusive packages for a very decent price and the area is a popular tourist spot for French, British and German visitors.

The resorts focus on beach-style vacations and most include traditional Turkish bath experiences – a must when visiting the country.

Turkey is home to two of the ancient wonders of the world: the Mausoleum of Maussollos at Halicarnassus in Bodrum and the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus. Both are almost completely destroyed, but it's fun to stand on or near one of the ancient wonders.

Ephesus is called the best-preserved classical city on the Mediterranean. While it served as a strategic coastal gateway to the Eastern World, it grew to be the second largest city in the Roman Empire. Admission to the mostly-excavated site at Ephesus costs 10 Turkish lira. The vast city is capped by two theaters. The large amphitheater oversees the harbor road once leading to the massive harbor that fed the city.

The Celsus Library stands at the crossroads of the Roman roads. Its facade has been carefully reconstructed from all original pieces and the building faces east so the reading rooms could make best use of the morning light.

Visitors can walk into the massive structure



The Celsus Library in Ephesus stands at the center of a Roman crossroads.

and see the engravings covering the columns that lead into the library and out into the trade forum to the right of the library.

Legend has it that the last homes dwelled in by the Virgin Mary and St. John lie in a nearby town of Selcuk near Ephesus. In 1967 Pope Paul VI visited the site, where a chapel now stands, and is said to have confirmed the authenticity of the legend.

The ancient city of Troy lies in ruin northeast of Izmir. The magnificent city is left in rubble, but there is a replica of the Trojan horse and the opportunity exists to walk through the ruins. Troy was captured and destroyed seven times. Visitors can still see the foundations of many homes and buildings. It's recommended to go with a guide to point out the most important structures of the destroyed city.

South of Troy is Assos, a quaint town overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Here are the remains of the temple of Athena with a Greek theater below and ruins of an old school house where Aristotle was believed to lecture. The view from the temple is breathtaking, and a small ancient harbor town lies below with restaurants and hotels deserving of an overnight stay.

Interested tourists should visit <http://www.tourismturkey.org/>. The Web site can give you some great ideas to plan your trip, or just a place to get started on your journey.

Whether it's an inexpensive beach vacation, the chance to travel the seven churches, or to visit ruins of the ancient world, the Aegean coast of Turkey is fascinating, rustic and beautiful.

Mapping it: The Aviano Family Support Center has free local area maps and tourist information. Call Ext. 5657 for details.



Photo by Senior Airman Sarah Gregory

The Sforza Castle in Milan was built in 1450 by the fourth Duke of Milan.

Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Tours office include:

- June 3 - Guided Turin
 - June 3 - Memorial Marcel Dadi guitar concert at Castle Brando
 - June 3 - Guided Slovenia Rhapsody Ljubljana and Postumia Caves
 - June 3 - Guided Milan and Bergamo
- ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and

departs from destinations as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly for trips. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because almost all tours involve walking. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.

Base pool offers cool benefits, discounts

**By Tech. Sgt.
Jerome Baysmore**
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

Base officials have announced the seasonal opening of the base pool.

Aviano's pool officially opens Memorial Day weekend with more perks in store for the base populace.

"We're looking forward to a good pool season," said Mr. Marlyn Quade, 31st Services Squadron programs manager. "The entire season will be cheaper for the Aviano community."

Pool pass prices have gone down to \$12 for individuals, Mr. Quade said, and family passes are \$40 for up to four and \$50 for families of five and up.

"Last year, they were three times that much," he said. "This year, the prices went down thanks to [Brig. Gen. Robert Yates'] funding of the Camp Adventure lifeguards."

This year, free water aerobics classes and lap swimming are also offered at the pool. In addition, the pool will hold scuba certification classes, pool parties and youth and adult swimming lessons.

For the past two weeks, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron and 31st SVS personnel have been busy cleaning, inspecting and preparing for



Courtesy photo

Regular swimming builds endurance, muscle strength and cardio-vascular fitness. It can serve as a cross-training element to regular workouts.

opening weekend.

"Everything with water in it was taken apart and stored for the winter last year," said Staff Sgt. Donovan Johnson, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, utilities systems technician. "We had to clean it, check the filters and 'super chlorinate' the pool to

remove all the bacteria."

The pool season runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day and the weekly schedule is Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information on the base pool log onto www.31svs-aviano.com or call Ext. 5593.

Dive into swim benefits

Swimming is a very low impact exercise. The weightlessness of water reduces stress on joints, virtually eliminating the potential of back, knee and other muscular injuries common in high impact activities such as running. The water pressure adds to the muscle pressure exerted on the veins to aid in returning blood to the heart and lungs.

Frisbee: Take up the 31st MXS frisbee challenge. Call Tech. Sgt. Jason Patton at Ext. 8642 for info.

Flag football schedule

Tuesday

5:30 p.m. – Bravo Co. vs. 31st MXS
PMEL
6:30 p.m. – 31st CES vs. 31st LRS
7:30 p.m. – 31st AMXS vs. 31st CS

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. – 31st AMXS vs. Bravo Co.
6:30 p.m. – 31st MDG vs. 31st SFS
7:30 p.m. – 31st CES vs. 31st CS
8:30 p.m. – 31st LRS vs. 31st OSS

Thursday

5:30 p.m. – 31st CS vs. 31st Bravo Co.
6:30 p.m. – 31st MDG vs. 31st OSS
7:30 p.m. – 31st SFS vs. 31st MXS
PMEL

All games take place at the Dragon Fitness Center football field.

Fly Bys

Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners are participating in a Volksmarch at 7:45 a.m. Sunday. The group leaves the Bar Municipio in Roveredo and heads to Colfrancui do Oderzo. For more information, call Ext. 7692 or 7404.

Sports registration

Flag football and volleyball registration begins Thursday and the deadline to sign up is June 20. For more information, call Shalee Torrence at Ext. 4784 or e-mail her at [shalee@aviano.af.mil](mailto:torrence@aviano.af.mil).

Basketball camp

A professional basketball camp for youth ages 8 to 20 is June 18-24 and June 25-July 1. For more information, or to sign up, call Mike Williams at 338-439-0929.

Batting cages

The batting cages in Freedom Park are officially open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The cost is \$1 per token for 15 balls. Tokens must be purchased at the Dragon Fitness Center. Bats and helmets can be checked out at the Dragon Fitness Center. Individuals 18 years old and younger must wear a helmet while using the batting cages. Cages are first come first served.

For more info, call Master Sgt. Warren Baker at Ext. 7459.

Sports Day

A sports day for adults and kids is June 3 and 4 in Fontanfredda. All base community members are invited to attend and participate. Sporting events for children are from 10 a.m. to noon and 3 to 7 p.m. June 3 and adult events are from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 4. Events will include soccer, volleyball, rugby, tennis, basketball and ping-pong. A free lunch will be served both days.

For more information, call Ext. 7555.

Aviano troops run through Europe

Marathon offers members new physical challenges and travel opportunities

By Lt. Col. Pete Schaub

31st Operations Support Squadron commander

Last Mother's Day weekend, several of the World's Finest and their families traveled to Prague, Czech Republic. This trip was a fantastic opportunity for me and five of my 31st OSS troops, as well as members of 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, 555th Fighter Squadron, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron and 31st Mission Support Group to combine physical fitness activities with the outstanding travel opportunities afforded to us living in Europe.

My squadron's trip came to fruition when several of us were discussing the U.S. Air Force fitness test and the benefits derived from the recent focus on physical fitness. During the discussion, I mentioned I wanted to run a marathon in the near future and oddly enough, several others were interested, too.

In no time, we had decided that Prague would be a great marathon to run and that it would be fun to take families along. Thankfully, one of our spouses graciously volunteered to coordinate the entire itinerary and before we knew it, we had a plan in place. Additionally, we coordinated for all our active duty members running the marathon to travel permissive TDY, so no leave was taken.

While the primary focus for a few of us was to run the marathon on Sunday, all of us

were interested in exploring Prague. The city of a hundred spires was absolutely beautiful and offered something for everyone. Museums and art galleries, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, Church of Our Lady before Tyn, and The Old Town Hall with the Astronomical Clock were just a few of the sites we were able to visit. We all found the subway and bus system easy to use and understand, and everyone agreed that the Czech restaurants were all world class and relatively inexpensive. Some of us even enjoyed a relaxing dinner cruise on the Vltava river that flows through the city.

The marathon proved to be a challenge, but each of us was able to finish the course. Congratulations go to two of my troops who completed their first-ever marathon after only beginning to train four months ago.

Everyone in our group agreed that the entire trip was a complete success. I would offer up this activity as an idea for any squadron to pursue as a long-range activity. Why not push yourself to higher fitness levels while exploring Europe? Just so you know, Dublin, Ireland, is hosting a marathon in October which doesn't necessitate a qualifying time as an entry requirement. Also, the race course will be open for eight hours so you could walk it. Interested? The 31st OSS Lions might see you there.

Running smart

For information about upcoming stateside and international marathons, training tips and advice for first-time marathoners, visit <http://www.marathonguide.com/>.



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send congratulatory messages to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

Recognizing The World's Finest

Aviano Airman of the Week

Name: Airman 1st Class Richard Coleman

Unit: 31st Contracting Squadron

Job: Contract specialist

Hometown: Kettle Falls, Wash.

Family: Dad, step-mom, mom, step-dad and five brothers

Hobbies: Playing sports and traveling

Why joined: "Because of country pride and I have always wanted to join the military."

